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A

LIVELY TESTIMONY

TO THE

Living Truth,

Given forth by *Robert Feckell* upon his Death-bed.

In the preſence of many eye and ear Witneſſes whoſe names are ſubſcribed.

Bleſſed are the dead that die in the Lord, &c.

London, Printed in the year 1676.

Pleasure

A Relation of *Robert Jeckells* Death, and his Teſtimony for Truth before his Departure.

Robert Jeckell of *New-Caſtle upon Tine*, having a deſire to come to *Swarthmoore*, began his Journey in company with ſeveral other Friends, and began to be ſick the ſame day that he came from home, and was ſick at ſeveral places by the way: But ſtill preſſed forward to his Journeys end, and would not be ſatisfied, to ſtay ſhort of *Swarthmoore*, where he came the 2d. of the 5th. month 1676. and went to his Bed preſently after he came in, where he lay ſick 9 days, and then dyed upon the 11th. of the ſame month, and made a Comfortable end, being all the time of his Sickneſs, in perfect ſenſe and memory, as may be ſeen by the following words, which were ſpoken by him a little before his Death.

Two days before his Death, he ſaid, *Well Friends, it's the belief of my heart, that the Lord will raiſe me up, to bear a faithfull Teſtimony for God and his Truth.*

In the Evening before his Departure, when Friends ſtood about him, expecting him to give up, (*according to the belief of his heart*) he was raiſed up, by the *power* of the *Lord*, and ſpake with an audible voice as followeth.

No ſeparation like unto this, Soul ſeparated from the Body, the Spirit returning to God that gave it, and the Body to the Earth from whence it came. For great has the loving kindneſs of the Lord been unto me, not unto me only, but unto you all my dear Friends, who are faithfull unto

Death; I can speak it to his praise, and unto his glory for evermore: and in it can bid you everlastingly farewell.

I have always been faithfull to the Truth, as to what was manifested, for God hath loved me from a Child. And he said, spreading out his arms, *Oh the blessed precious Truth is above all the World! and this is my living Testimony, I have to bear for the Lord and his Truth: For always I loved Truth, and preferred it before all the World; for Truth is precious, and to be valued before all things below it: Therefore oh dear Friends prize Truth, this precious Truth, for it lives for ever. Let nothing divert your minds from that sence of Truth you have, for as that is kept too, Truth answers Truth in every heart.*

As to the principle of Truth, it will reign over all; though strange things may happen in this Nation, yet the Lord will crown his blessed Truth, and his Glory over all: Therefore all my dear Friends, be faithfull to that manifestation in your own particulars, for a Profession will stand none in stead, unless they live in the life and power thereof; for this is an everlasting Truth that will live for ever: all that feel Gods love let them prize it, for it is better then words.

And it was the desire of my heart, to come and visit my dear Friend Geo. Fox, *and I am very well satisfied therein; and it was the travail of my soul a long time before I came, and now I am come to give up all, and herein I am fully satisfied.*

At another time he said, *Though I was perswaded to stay by the way, before I came to this place; yet this was the place where I would have been, and the place where I should have been, whether I live or die.*

And dear George, *I can add nothing unto thee, for thou want'st nothing of the good Spirit, for thou art in God and God in thee; but let us give all the praise and the*

glory

glory to God: but I pray unto God that he may preſerve thee, from all evil ſpirits.

Another time *G. F.* ſpoke to him and ſaid, he might offer up his Spirit and Soul to the Lord, who gives breath and life to all, and takes it again; and he lifted up his hands and ſaid, *The Lord is worthy of it, and I have done it.* *G. F.* asked him if he could ſay, Thy will O God be done, in Earth as it is in Heaven; And he lifted up his hands and eyes, and chearfully *ſaid he did it.* And he ſaid, *he had been faithfull in a Profeſſion to what he knew, untill the manifeſtation of the Truth broke forth*; And his mouth was often filled with praiſes to the Lord, and ſaid, *though he had had multitude of buſineſs, yet the Lord had carried him over all.*

And dear Friends, dwell in love and unity together, and keep out of all jarrs, ſtriſe and contention, for the Enemy lies near to draw out; And if you be divided one againſt another, then you will come to a loſs: Profeſſion will ſtand none in ſtead, for alas any may make a Profeſſion, but it's thoſe that live the life of Truth, and dwell in the obedience of it, that obtains the Crown. For alas a ſilly woman may ſay, Lord, Lord help me, when the ditch is before her; but the Lord doth not bid her fall into it, but there is that near that will manifeſt, and open the eye, and preſerve out of it. That Living principle of Truth, which will preſerve all that dwell in it.

And Friends, be ſure to continue faithfull unto the end, and be not weary in well-doing, for that is a good teſtimony, they that continue faithfull unto the end ſhall be ſaved.

At another time he ſaid, *all deceit and fraud will come to nothing, I am an innocent man, and clear of all men, upon the face of the Earth.*

If there be any bad Spirits, (that under a pretence

make

makes a Profeſſion of Truth) do take occaſion to ſpeak evil of me when I am gone, you are Living Witneſſes, and can bear a Living Teſtimony, (ſpeaking to *Bridget Pindar* and *Elizabeth Hopper*) *that I am an Innocent man, and that the Lord hath cleared me, and I lie down my head in peace.*

And Bridget *and* Elizabeth, *you are my Neighbours: As to my dear Wife, I give her freely up to the Lord, for ſhe loved the Lord, and he will love her; and I deſire ſhe may be kept faithfull to the Truth in all things; and that you may adviſe her, and be aſſiſtant to her in what you can. And I have often told my dear Wife, as to what we have in outward things, it was the Lords firſt before it was ours, and in that I deſire that ſhe may ſerve the Truth to the end of her days.*

And I deſire thoſe Friends, whom I have intruſted in my Will; (naming them all) *to ſee my Will truly performed, and to be faithfull to their Truſt, that ſo they may diſcharge a good Conſcience in the ſight of the Lord; And that they may ſee all things cleared and diſcharged, for I am well able to diſcharge thoſe things.*

And now my dear Friends, in the everlaſting power of God, I commit you all to the Lord, to be preſerved and kept, in his everlaſting power, and bid you all everlaſtingly, yea everlaſtingly farewell.

All is done: And to the Lord I leave you all, unto him I commit you all. Farewell.

Let me go hence in peace, for I ſhall go hence and be no more ſeen in mutability.

About two hours before he died, *G. F.* took him by the hand, and asked him if he was ſatisfied of his ſeeing him; And he lifted up his eyes, and with a gladneſs of heart and ſmilingly he praiſed the Lord, *And ſaid: that his Comfort flowed in as a ſtreid.* And *G. F.* asked him,

what

what he ſaid; And he ſpoke thoſe words over again. And *G. F.* ſaid unto him, thy everlaſting peace and reſt is in Chriſt, that bruiſes the head of the Serpent, who is over all from Everlaſting to Everlaſting, who is the Everlaſting food of Life, for thy Soul and Spirit, and in him thou wilt lay down thy head in peace, who is the Crown of life: And many other words he ſpoke to *G. F.* and *G. F.* to him, which would be too large to mention.

Theſe words before written, were ſpoken in the hearing of theſe witneſſes, and ſeveral others:

Iſabell Yeamans.
Bridget Pinder.
Elizabeth Hopper.
Sarah Fell.
Suſanna Fell.
Rachel Fell.
Agnes Ormandy.
Edw. Brathwaite.
Edw. Haiſtwhittle.

AND alſo dear Friends, this lives in our hearts as a Teſtimony concerning our dear Friend *Robert Jeckell*, that Gods power was with him, and his preſence did attend him, & in much patience the Lord preſerved him, in the time of his Sickneſs, from day to day; and he was in perfect ſence and memory, all the time of his weakneſs; he often ſaying to us, Dear Friends, give me up, and weep not for me, but be willing to bear a part with me, for I am content with the Lords doings, (and leave me not, till you have ſeen all finiſhed concerning me;) which he has done to the praiſe of the Lord, and to the great comfort and refreſhment of our immortal Souls.

And he often declared, *That he had no pain, but that*

he ſaw how he went away by little and little, always liſting up his hands while he had ſtrength, praiſing the Lord.

And this is our Teſtimony, that he is entred into the everlaſting fulneſs of Joy, where there is pleaſures for evermore.

For at the time of his Departure, *Gods heavenly power* did fill our hearts, to our great peace and ſatisfaction: Inſomuch that we can ſay, *Bleſſed are the dead that die in the Lord, for they ſhall be had in everlaſting remembrance*; for the Lord ſealed it upon our hearts, at the time of his ſeparation, *that he had received his own with increaſe.* — Praiſes be to the Lord for ever, who hath been our ſupport, and borne us up, in this our great Exerciſe; ſo that we can give encouragement, to all that may meet with the like tryal, not to be bowed down, under any Exerciſe which the Lord may call unto, nor let it into their heart, to queſtion why the Lord doth it; for he is able to ſanctifie every Exerciſe, and to make all things eaſie to them that love and fear his name; to whom be the glory of all for evermore.

Swarthmore in *Lancaſhire*, 14 d. 5 mo. 1676.

Bridget Pinder.
Elizabeth Hopper.

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